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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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St. Valentine's Day 1957

Although experts do not agree on the origin of St. Valentine's Day, it is generally accepted that the day is the day for lovers. Chaucer believed that February 14th was the day birds chose their mates. Whether Chaucer was right or not, history shows that various races set great store by February 14th as the day for human lovers, a choice of mates, and so on.

It is possible that St. Valentine's Day originated in England from a combination of two other observances. The Norman word for a lady's man was "Galentine." Since the Normans pronounced a "g" as a "v," the word "Valentine" could easily have been combined with the Chaucer theory of the mating of the birds to produce Valentine's Day. It is possible that the addition of the "Saint" stems from Roman days. There were three St. Valentine's, all of them associated with February 14th in Ancient Rome.

As far as 1957 is concerned, St. Valentine's Day this year falls on a day the moon is full. This happens only once in several decades and will not occur again for many years. Since the moon is supposed to be the originator of many romantic legends and impulses, it is unique that St. Valentine's Day in 1957 has the one hundred per cent support of the moon—for all young lovers to make full use of.

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The Test Of A Friend

Friends are hard to come by in this life, as anyone who has ever had occasion to have one's friends tested undoubtedly knows. Nevertheless, one of life's greatest joys is to have one true friend — or more—if that fortunate circumstance should favor an individual.

One will find that the test of friendship comes when it costs something to remain a loyal friend. The money test will eliminate ninety per cent of one's friends, but the test which will eliminate ninety-nine per cent is the occasion which demands loyalty to a friend who is suddenly an "expensive" friend.

Realizing that no one is perfect, we must all adjust our thinking and philosophy to the fact that our friends will make mistakes, just as we will. Mistakes must be forgiven, although not necessarily forgotten, in a spirit of give-and-take, and comradeship. And, just as misfortune can alienate sunshine friends, success often alienates those who appear to be true friends. While envy and jealousy do not part genuine friends, such developments inevitably part the sunshine variety.

Using the Bible as a guide and some of the great examples of friendship and love in history, one can generally settle upon one basic rule for friendship. If we can be happy over the sudden success and wealth of our friend, share his misfortunte and unpopularity if that's the turn of events, and stand ready to help or advise, or even get out of the way, as the occasion may warrant, we have come close to being a true friend.

Finally, if you have such a friend, loyal all the way, hold on to him or her. That should be your most prized possession, outside of God and your family.

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The Planets In February

The night skies of winter often offer an inspiring and thought-provoking display to those who take the time to study the skies.

Five planets will be visible in February, and any reader who wishes to look for them will be able to see them on a clear night without an optical aid. As you may know, the planets of the solar system are Mercury, Venus, the Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

Neptune Uranus and Pluto are too faint to be seen with the naked eye, although Uranus and Neptune can be seen with good field glasses. Pluto is only visible through the use of a telescope.

Therefore, of the nine planets of the solar system, we on earth can see five of them. For the first few days of February, Mercury is be visible just before sunrise. By the middle of the month, it will disappear from view.

Venus will be found in the constellation of Sagittarius, and will not be visible in the month of February. Mars will be found well to the West at sunset.

Jupiter rises about nine o'clock at night and will begin a westward motion during the month. Saturn will probably be seen at about one A. M. and remains in Ophiuchus, near Antares. It will remain in this constellation all year, slowly moving around the sun.

If you are interested in celestial events, or become interested, you will find it a wonderful hobby, providing much stimulation and food for thought.

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Abraham Lincoln

One hundred forty-six years ago this month, Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. Lincoln's life has come to be the symbol of the American way of life.

From the log cabin in which he was born to the White House, where his life ended, Lincoln reflected the possibilities for the poor youth in the American system of government.

But, contrary to the belief of many, Lincoln was an outstanding citizen and leader in his community long before he was elected President of the United States. He was a captain of a company of volunteers in the Black Hawk Indian War. He was elected to the State Legislature when he was twenty-five years old.

He opened a law office at the age of thirty. He was elected to Congress when he was thirty-seven. Thrice he was presidential elector in Illinois. In 1858, he was nominated for the United States Senate by the Republicans of Illinois. In 1860, he was nominated and elected President of the United States.

Lincoln's patience and gentle manner enabled him to guide the country through a disastrous war in1861-65. He was immovable on matters of principle and had he not been assassinated, the South might have fared far better in the brutal terror of the Reconstructions Days.

As a national figure, Lincoln ranks with Washington and Jefferson. One of the fine tributes paid his memory is the pilgrimage to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C., of many Americans, who silently read his expressions on the freedom and dignity of man.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH L. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Matthew 13. Devotional Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Truth Is Alive

Lesson for February 17, 1957

HOW do you explain advanced mathematics to children who don't know what 2x2 means? Jesus had an equally hard time trying to explain what he meant by the Kingdom of God. (By the way, comparison of passages will show that Kingdom of God and of "heaven" mean just the same thing.) nearly everything he said about it has been persistently misunderstood by somebody or other. Harder than explained a totally new idea is transforming an old one, and Jesus had this more difficult task; for many of his contemporaries, both friends and enemies, thought they knew what "Kingdom of God" meant, already, and they did not want to be told.

Dr. Foreman

A Definition

We can venture a definition of the Kingdom of God to which most persons will agree: The state of things in which God's will is wholly done by all men in all things. Many persons will agree to that definition; but it leaves several questions unanswered. One of these questions is dealt with in the parables chosen for this week's study. It is this: How does the Kingdom grow, or spread, or come? This is an especially important question if we understand that it is a part of God's plan to use his servants—meaning and including ourselves too—to help bring the Kingdom to pass, to bring it out of the world of hope into the world of fact and experience. Most churches sing the hymn: "Rise up, O men of God!" They do not sing the parody on it which begins, "Sit down, O men of God, you cannot do a thing!"

Not by Force

But suppose we do rise up to work for the Kingdom, what shall we do?

Good men have long asked themselves that question . . . and sometimes given wrong answers. Some have thought that the reign of God could be forced on men. So we have had the Crusaders, the Inquisition, the New England "theocracies", Calvin in Geneva and Cromwell in England—all working on the same theory: You can force people to do God's will. This earth can become like heaven if your police force is good enough.

Not by Machines

But that never has worked. It can't work, because the Kingdom of God is not that sort of thing. So, other good but mistaken men have supposed that the way the Kingdom spreads abroad is by a copying system of some kind. let us say by a vast mimeographing machine. Some particular person, or period, or institution, is taken as the absolute pattern, and people are encouraged to imitate it to the last detail. For example: the early Christian church, as described in the book of Acts, is taken by some people as the picture of the ideal church, and all churches (it is said) should be as nearly exact copies of it as is possible. Or the social and political organization set forth in the laws of Moses are taken to describe the ideal state, and we today should imitate that if we want to get the perfect society. Or some ancient saint is taken as the exact model of every one who wants to be a good person. But these notions are all off center. No world and no institution and no age or system in the past was perfect even for that day; and when you take something that was imperfect yesterday and try to make it fit today, the result is more imperfect then ever.

The Kingdom Is a Living Thing

Jesus' parables show how the Kingdom of God really spreads and grows. He called it once a kingdom of truth; and truth is a Living thing. Truth cannot be forced upon people. Mere copying of truth is mechanical and may even be meaningless. Truth grows the way a plant does, the way yeast does in dough; silently, steadily, by the sheer power of the life that is in it. But since the Kingdom of God is made up of people, since the truth of Christ is not one to be read about but one to be lived out, the Kingdom of God, the world of his heart's desire, comes into being by the personal touch of life on life. Truth spreads from pole to pole only as it spreads from soul to soul.

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Washington Notes

G. I. LOANS

Applications for G. I. loans dropped 12 per cent in December and were about 27 per cent below December, 1955, the Veterans Administration has reported. Requests for home appraisals, a "barometer for measuring future loan activity," also dipped during December. The agency received 19,029 appraisal requests, compared with 21,941 in November and 24,892 a year earlier. The decreases are attributed, almost entirely, to the "tightening in the supply of mortgage funds and the increased interest rate on VA loans from 4 1-2 to 5 per cent.

BALLISTICS MISSILES

The Commerce Department has announced it had given top priority for materials to contractors working on the ballistic missiles program. The Defense Department is spending $1,500,000,000 on these weapons in the current fiscal year, and plans to step up spending to about $2,000,000,000 next year.

PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income, after taxes, hit a seasonably adjusted annual rate of more than $392,000,000,000 in the final months of 1956, according to the Commerce Department. This was 5 1-2 per cent above the previous year.

RAIL FARE INCREASE

The Interstate Commerce Commission recently approved a five per cent increase in interstate passenger fares of sixteen more Eastern railroads, to become effective on February 1st, or later. A similar increase was authorized December 31 for eight major Eastern roads and for those operating west of the Mississippi River.

A-SHIP BUILDING

Rear Admiral Hyman C. Rickover recently predicted that, by the early 1960's, every naval vessel will be propelled by nuclear power. The proved use of nuclear power for submarines has made such a task force possible and feasible.

AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION

Automobile production in January showed some striking gains and some sharp cutbacks. Ford's output was up 25 per cent and Chrysler's 23 per cent from a year earlier. However, General Motors raised output by only 1.2 per cent.

ATOMIC TESTS

A new series of atomic tests presumably to include such defense weapons as nuclear anti - aircraft missiles and artillery has been announced by the Atomic Energy Commission. The tests will begin late in the spring at the Nevada Proving Grounds according to the AEC announcement.

SALES PEAK

U. S. manufacturers sold $351,000,000,000 worth of goods in 1956, acording to the Commerce Department. Sales were about 4 per cent above those in 1955, with higher prices accounting for a large part of the increase. Unfilled orders at the year's end totaled $62,000,000,000, a rise of $6,500,000,000 in the year and the value of inventories held by manufacturers at the end of 1956 was estimated at $51,500,000,000, up $5,500,000,000.

BILLION - DOLLAR BANK

There are now 21 banks in nation with assets of $1000,0 or more each — one more t year ago. Together, the ass the 21 total $62,750,000,00 gain during the year of $ 000,000. Nineteen of these also have deposits in excess billion dollars. The West giant Bank of America, with wide-flung branch system, has it has for several years, wh sets which total just under 000,000,000.

666

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And Mrs. M. is just YOU with HOUSEPOWER! So ask your Electrical Contractor about the new, low cost of Housepower. And see the super-automatic 1957 electric laundries at your Electric Appliance Dealer's *soon*.

NATIONAL ELECTRIC WEEK February 10-16

Just 110 years ago this week a new baby came into the world . . . and something wonderful happened to your life. For that was Thomas Edison, whose lamp brought electricity into homes . . . and opened the way for you to *Live Better Electrically* today . . . and tomorrow!

LIVE BETTER ELECTRICALLY

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Spring Mills

Spring Mills, Feb. 12.- Leroy visited his brother-in-law and Mr. and Mrs. Al Edwards in last week. His mother, G. E. Owen, who had been visiting this home for some time, home with him.

Gilliam, who was operated Virginia Baptist Hospital, week for appendicitis, has returned home and is doing nicely.

Carrie Ford, Jimmy and Ford were visitors of Mr. Bernard Elder Saturday

and Mrs. James Ford, Jimmy kie Ford visited in the home and Mrs. Lowell Owen, of burg on Sunday afternoon. also visited Paul Gilliam in hospital.

reen Joy, who has been a pa- in Memorial Hospital for time, is reported to be doing

B. W. C.'s of Union Church their regular monthly meeting home of Mrs. Noel Crews on day night. There were twelve bers in attendance. An interprogram was given. The Y. s are observing Focus Week week.

Junior Farmers Union met home of Linda Rush on day night, with a large attend-

Amplin Vicinity

Amplin Vicinity, Feb. 11.- Mrs. Kress was called on Sunday the bedside of her mother, Charlie Shorter, who is very Southside Hospital in Farmville.

and Mrs. Frank Nash and ter, Shirley spent last week- Midway, North Carolina with son, Clyde Nash and family. and Mrs. John Staton and of Lynchburg; Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and baby, and Mrs. Bates and children all visit- and Mrs. Clay Taylor Sun-

nny Baldwin, Junior Richard- B. G. Richardson left today Texas, as they have joined the force.

and Mrs. Clyde Neighbors and Mrs. R. L. Jennings, Lynchburg visited Mr. and Raymond Kress Sunday.

amount jumps TWICE to 2½ then 5 TIMES original value — while premium ains the same . . .

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FOR THE FREE FACTS, CONTACT:

JAMES R. REDDING

Office over Bank of Appomattox

Dial 2664

NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Home Office: Columbus, Ohio

Mrs. Robert Garrison returned home Saturday after spending last week with relatives in Lynchburg.

Mrs. Kester Jamerson is on the sick list, with sinus trouble.

Mrs. Lawrence Nash and son, Lawrence, Jr., of Roanoke, visited Mr. and Mrs. Luther Nash Sunday.

Misses Juanita, Nellie and Elizabeth Harris, of Appomattox, spent the week-end with their brother, Lewis Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cumby and Mr. Edward Cumby visited Howard Cumby in Southside Hospital Sunday.

Mrs. O. C. Paulette, Mr. and Mrs. Ryland Staples and Barbara Kay Staples visited Mrs. L. M. Southall Sunday.

Mrs. H. M. Robinson visited relatives at Evergreen Sunday.

All of Mrs. Daisy Cobbs' children celebrated her 74th birthday with a surprise party on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Rixey Southall, Sr. returned home today after a ten-day visit at Louisa, Va.

Rocks

Rocks, Feb. 11.- If the Ground Hog sign holds good, we will have more winter weather yet.

Farm work is at a standstill now.

All were saddened to hear of the death of Dr. F. H. Lukin last Tuesday. Loved ones and friends will surely miss him.

Only a few out for the prayer service on Tuesday night. Rev. J. R. Darden brought a very helpful message. You will miss something if you don't come out to these services.

Phillip Inge has the measles.

Claude Leffel and John Paulette were in Lynchburg on Thursday night.

Peggy and Marilyn and Burley Jr. Harris were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Glenn McIntosh awhile Tuesday night.

Mrs. John Ranson was substituting for one of the teachers at the Pamplin school last week.

The Rocky Demonstration Club met with Mrs. Edward Ranson on Thursday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dickerson and children were visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Richardson awhile Sunday afternoon. Also Mr. and Mrs. George Kress, of Pamplin called in the same home.

Mrs . W. F. Ranson was the overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ranson at Appomattox Hotel on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Roach and children, of Lynchburg, were visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roach Sunday.

Mrs. Clarence Richardson and Otis were in Farmville on Saturday morning.

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NOW is the time, to re-model that ATTIC, BASEMENT (into a RECREATION ROOM) KITCHEN OR BATH with plastic and asphalt tile, PLYWOOD PANELING &c., and you will be "DELIGHTED WITH THE BEAUTIFUL RESULTS."

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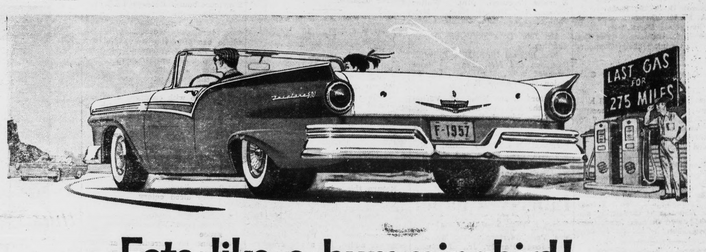
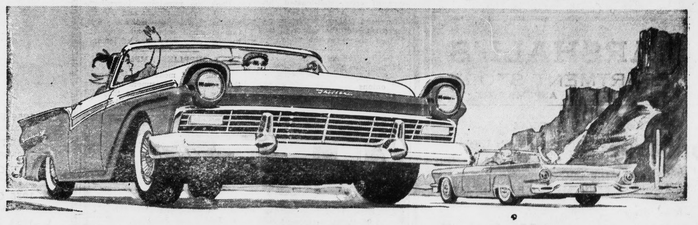


Eats like a hummingbird!

Like *all* the new '57 Fords, that sleek Sunliner up there lives on a mighty lean diet of gasoline. Big reason? Look underneath the new front-hinged hood of this over 17-foot long dreamboat. There you'll find a magnificent V-8 engine . . . an all-new, easier "breathing" power plant that measures fuel and air more efficiently . . . ver before to give you fuller combustion, gre . . . economy. There you'll find a completely new brand of Ford TNT that's the *proud result of Ford's many years of V-8 leadership*. Yes, "Six" or "Eight" . . . the going's great in the new kind of Ford!



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For a car that "eats" like a bird . . . just watch this new kind of Ford *devour* the miles! That's its new Thunderbird V-8 power* for you. It's the same kind of mile-melting power that sparks the mighty Thunderbird itself . . . the same *staying* power that hurried a '57 Ford over 50,000 salt-encrusted miles at Bonneville in less than 20 days . . . at an average speed of more than 108 miles per hour! But Action Test the new kind of Ford. Feel the new solid, silent ride that stems from the all-new Inner Ford. Discover all the *other* reasons why Ford makes "luxury" a low-priced word!

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